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It is really difficult to understand why Lord Fitzmaurice deliberately kept his sketch within the limits of "an historical study." By reason of this self-restraint his results are, it may as well be immediately confessed, slight and infirm. He probably argued that he was acting within the requirements of his form in contenting himself with already published material, and though he exhibits a praiseworthy familiarity with available references, it can not be pretended that he enlarges our knowledge by a single fact. Nor does he furnish a new interpretation of the duke's character, an original point of view. A personality, no matter how familiar, becomes embued, when seized and portrayed by a powerful mind, with all the interest of novelty, but the Duke of Brunswick, as presented in these pages, is not studied from life, but is at best a faithful pencil copy of the portraits found in Sybel and Chuquet. His person never emerges from a sort of prehistoric half-dark, does not become authentic and palpable, except in a few anecdotes and incidents drawn from Massenbach and Boyen.

The book, which is handsomely got up, is laudably free from careless errors. However, it may be noted that there is no good reason for complicating Kunersdorf with an *umlaut*; that the duke's mother was very far from being Frederick the Great's favorite sister (p. 7); and that the sequence of the battles and surrender, of the year 1759 is much misrepresented on p. 8. The essay has an appendix of documents, the *raison d'être* of which, in view of the fact that none of the material is new, does not force itself upon the reader. Altogether the book may be said to maintain the level of a good magazine article, which it originally was, but certainly to fall below the requirements of even an historical essay.

FERDINAND SCHWILL.

The French Revolution. A Sketch. By SHAILER MATHEWS. (New York, London, Bombay: Longmans, Green and Co. 1901. Pp. vii, 297.)

PROFESSOR MATHEWS has written an admirable text-book of the French Revolution. In less than three hundred pages the causes of that movement and its course are clearly traced in the light of the most recent and authoritative investigations. The justness and adequacy of his conception of the Revolution is shown by this paragraph: "In France, just as in America a few years before, and in England in the preceding century, revolution was the outcome of national convalescence, of a socialized conviction of injustice, and of a universal determination to install justice. It was the expression of popular hatred with abuses—political, social, ecclesiastical, economic—which, if properly met and controlled, might have been turned into the more quiet ways of reform. Nor was it the product of Paris alone. It was the work of a great nation, provinces as well as capital, and to appreciate its significance the student must never confuse temporary mob rule with a national awakening." This conception of the Revolution is successfully worked out in the narrative. Its

predominantly social character, its various stages towards an ever more pronounced radicalism, and the nature and extent of provincial participation are clearly shown.

A third of the volume is devoted to a description of the conditions prevailing under the Old Régime and the reform movements preceding 1789. It is a relief to find so full and adequate a treatment of matter absolutely indispensable to a correct understanding of the Revolution and yet which is generally condensed in books of this character within the curt limits of a single chapter or two. Professor Mathews traces the development of the revolutionary spirit during the reign of Louis XV., showing how manifold it was in its manifestations and how widespread before ever it was touched by philosophy and pointing out the lamentable characteristic that among the worst of the people it was a "mutinous and brutal" spirit, among the best a "morally selfish, or at best morally neutral" one.

Two hundred pages are devoted to the period between 1789 and 1795. The story is told graphically but with moderation. The philosophy of events is shown, as well as their course, for one of the merits of the book is this excellence of its interpretations. The positions of the leading personages and parties in the Revolutionary history are made intelligible. Particularly successful is the treatment of the Girondists and Jacobins. Of the Reign of Terror the author says that it is a fundamental mistake to consider it "a carnival of brute passion, or the outcome of anarchic forces become ascendant. This was true of certain days and of the work of certain agents of the Convention . . . but utterly false in the case of the government by committees between June, 1793, and July, 1794. The Terrorists were seekers after order, not after anarchy, and while it lasted the Terror was a genuine experiment in politics—crude, hideous, and never to be confounded with the work of the generous idealists of the Constituent Assembly; but in a politically ignorant and morally weak nation like France, possessing not a single man of first-rate ability among its legislators, probably inevitable. . . . But more than all it was implicit in the absolutism and the morals of the Old Régime" (p. 227).

Professor Mathews wisely gives little space to military events, merely indicating their bearing upon the Revolution. He closes his narrative with the installation of the Directory in 1795.

CHARLES D. HAZEN.

Jean-Paul Marat, The People's Friend. By ERNEST BELFORT BAX.
(Boston: Small, Maynard and Co. 1901. Pp. ix, 353.)

AN unpartisan and critical biography of Marat has long been desired. No one of the important Revolutionists has fared worse at the hands of posterity. His was too vehement a nature to have aroused other than vehement passions and consequently he has passed into historical literature as the *enfant perdu* of the Revolution. Modern historical investigation imperatively bids us alter our views. A biography that should